

constitution, to say, that it does not permit a man to be imprisoned, unless he has done something to displease persons in power. It would be difficult, I should suppose, to find any man upon earth, however despotic his disposition, who would not be contented with the power of sending to prison, during his pleasure, every one who should dare to do any thing to displease him. Besides, when I am told that there is little danger that the gentlemen in the house of commons will often exercise this power, I cannot help observing, that though the examples may be few, their effects will naturally be great and general. At this moment, it is true, we see but one man actually in jail for having displeased those gentlemen, but, the fate of this one man (as is the effect of all punishments) will deter others from expressing their opinions of the conduct of those who have the power to punish him. And, moreover, it is in the nature of all power and especially of assumed and undefined power, to increase as it advances in age; and as magna charta and the law of the land have not been sufficient to protect Mr Jones; as we have seen him sent to jail for having described the conduct of one of the members, as an outrage upon the public feeling, what security have we, unless this power of imprisonment be given up, that we shall not see other men sent to jail for stating their opinion respecting rotten boroughs, respecting placemen and pensioners sitting in the house; or in short, for making any declaration, giving any opinion, stating any fact, betraying any feeling, whether by writing, by word of mouth, or by gesture, which may displease any of the gentlemen assembled in St. Stephen's chapel.

Then again as to the kind of punishment; why should they stop at sending persons to jail? If they can send whom they please to jail; if they can keep the persons so sent, in jail as long as they please; if they can set their prisoners free at the end of the first hour, or keep them confined for seven years; if in short, their absolute will is to have the force of law, what security can you have that they will stop at imprisonment! If they have the absolute power of imprisoning and releasing, why may they not send their prisoners to York jail, as well as to the jail in London? Why not confine men in solitary cells, or load them with chains and bolts? They have not gone these lengths yet; but what is there to restrain them, if they are to be the sole judges of the extent of their powers, and if they are to exercise those powers without any control and without leaving the parties whom they choose to punish, any mode of appeal, any means of redress.

That a power such as this should exist in any country it is lamentable to be obliged to believe; but that it should be suffered to exist, and that its existence should be openly and even boastfully avowed, in a country, whose chief glory has been its free constitution of government, is something too monstrous to be believed, if the proof were not before our eyes. Had the least doubt hung upon my mind of the illegality of the proceedings in the present case, it would have been altogether removed by the answers given to the references made by me to the great luminaries of our law, and to the laws themselves. The argument, by which I endeavoured to convince the gentlemen of the house of commons, that their acts, in the case of Mr. Jones were illegal, I shall now lay before you in a more full and connected way than it could possibly be done by the parliamentary reporters; and in doing this, I shall do all that now remains in my power towards the correction of this, as I deem it, most enormous abuse of power, and most dangerous of all encroachments upon the rights and liberties of Englishmen.—I remain, gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble serv<sup>t</sup>,  
**FRANCIS BURDETT.**  
Peculiarly, March 23, 1810.

In consequence of a severe political letter, published in Cobbett's Weekly Register signed "Francis Burdett," which was considered a breach of the privilege of the house of commons, the following resolutions were moved by Mr. Lethbridge, which, after some debate, were postponed:

"1. That it be the opinion of this house that a certain letter, signed 'Francis Burdett,' and published in Cobbett's Weekly Register, of Saturday the 24th inst. is a libellous and scandalous publication, reflecting on the just rights and privileges of this house."

"2. That Sir Francis Burdett, Bart. having acknowledged himself to be the author of the said publication, has grossly violated the privileges and insulted the dignity of this house."

Whilst this business was before the house the crowd in the lobby and avenues was so great as to require an additional force of 30 constables. It was imagined that some danger existed of the commitment of Sir Francis to the tower; and it is said he took leave of his friend Horne Tooke, and left town the next morning.

#### NEW YORK, May 19. LATEST FROM FRANCE,

Yesterday arrived at this port the fast sailing brig Camilla, capt. Shaler, from St. Sebastian, which port she left on the 11th of April.

Mr John Griswold came out in the Camilla, bearer of dispatches from General Armstrong to our government, and has furnished the Editors of the Mercantile Advertiser with a file of French papers, and the following summary of news.

Mr Griswold, bearer of dispatches in the Camilla, left Paris on the 26th of March. The Emperor and sturdy members of his court were at Compiegne, where the new empress Maria Louisa, accompanied by the Prince of Neuchatel, had just arrived. The triumphal entry in Paris, with the Coronation of the Marriage Ceremonials, was to take place on Sunday, the 1st of April. The preparations for this great event were splendid beyond description, and it was supposed the illuminations and feasts would excel in brilliancy those of any former period.

Gen. Demolier, had been appointed by the Emperor minister to the United States. It was not known whether he was to succeed Gen. Turreau, or that he is appointed to some special mission. He had taken passage in the Francis, with the Russian minister, and was to sail from Rochelle for Philadelphia about the 10th of April. It was reported and believed in Paris, that Mr Pinkney had concluded a convention with the Marquis Wellesley.

Gen. Armstrong had taken up the ship Sally, Capt. Scott, laying at St. Sebastian, to take him and family to America. He would embark from Bordeaux about the 1st of June. The Sally was to proceed to Bordeaux protected by two passports. American property was still under seizure in all the ports on the Continent. The amount of property confiscated under the late Orders, in the ports of Biscay, Naples, &c. exclusive of Tonningen, was computed to have cost in America more than seven millions of dollars. That seized at Naples had been sold and the proceeds placed in the royal treasury; that in Spain was transporting to Bayonne, where it was to meet a similar fate. The reasons assigned for this hasty proceeding was to prevent costs to individual claimants, who would otherwise be prosecuting their claims separately, and at great expense.

Little or no news from the armies in Spain that could be relied upon.

Gen. Mens, who commanded a party of Patriots, had been taken by a party of Gen. D'Armes and sent into France escorted by a heavy guard of soldiers. On the 7th of April, Gen. M. was dining apart from his troops and was surprised at table by a party of Gen. d'Armes entered his apartments, before he was apprised of their approach, he made a short, but vigorous resistance, in which he was severely wounded, and it was supposed he would not survive his wounds.

A rumour prevailed at St. Sebastian at the time the Camilla sailed, that a battle had been fought between the combined arms and the French, in which the latter were defeated with considerable loss of the truth of this, little was known or believed.

It was also reported the day previous to sailing, that the frigate John Adams had arrived at Cherbourg, but no news had transpired from her.

The Camilla has brought home the crew of the ship Ann, Pendergrass, of N. York lately condemned in the Court of Prizes at Paris, both vessel and cargo. Seventy six seamen belonging to American vessels captured and confiscated in the ports of Biscay, also came home in the Camilla. The crews of sequestered vessels were denied a support by the French Government and were daily entering on board of French privateers.

By a late Decree all import duties are doubled and on prize goods treble.

#### NEW-YORK, May 19.

From Lisbon.—Capt. McCrea, of the ship Latona, who arrived this forenoon from Lisbon, informs that it was currently reported when he left there [April 4] that the French had, or were about to withdraw their troops from before Cadix for the purpose of concentrating their whole force into one body to attack the British and Portuguese armies. Troops were constantly arriving there from England. Three regiments landed the day before Captain McCrea sailed.

#### IMPERIAL WEDDINGS.

VIENNA, March 15, 1810.

When the prince of Neuchatel demanded of his imperial majesty the hand of his illustrious daughter, for his master Napoleon, he added, "The policy of my sovereign is in unison with the wishes of his heart.—This union of two powerful families, sire, will give to two generous nations new assurances of tranquility and happiness." In his speech to the archduchess Maria Louisa, he said, "Political considerations may have influenced the determination of both sovereigns—but it is above all, your consent, Madam, that the emperor, my master, wishes to obtain. It will be delightful to see, on a great throne the Genius of Power united with Beauty and Graces which are dearly loved." The following is the answer of the archduchess.

"The will of my father has constantly been mine—my happiness will always be involved in his. It is in these principles that the emperor Napoleon cannot fail to find a pledge of the sentiments which will actuate my conduct towards my husband—happy if I can contribute to his happiness, and to that of a great nation. I give, with the permission of my father, my consent to my union with the emperor Napoleon."

The answer of the archduke Charles, to the request of the emperor Napoleon that he would accept his procurator for the marriage ceremony, was peculiarly animated.—It was as follows:—

"I accept with pleasure, prince, the proposition which his Majesty the emperor of the French has through you transmitted to me. Equally flattered by his choice, as penetrated with the delightful presentiment that this alliance will efface every trace of political dissension, repair the evils of war, and produce a future happiness to two nations, who are formed to esteem each other and will render each other a reciprocal justice—I shall present to the hand of the archduchess Maria Louisa to the deposite of the great monarch, whom you represent—and I pray you, my prince, to publish to all France my ardent wishes that the virtues of the archduchess may cement forever the friendship of your sovereign, and the happiness of their people."

#### LAYDEN, March 23.

The archduke Francis, brother of the empress of Austria, is to marry Maria Augusta Antonetta, princess royal of Saxony—and will be created king of Poland.

#### LATE FROM GOTTENBURGH.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of respectability and intelligence at Portsmouth, N. H. to his friend in Boston, dated May 13.

"The ship Concordia, captain Rindge, which sailed from Gottsburgh on the 2d of April, arrived at Portsmouth this morning.

"One of the passengers reports, that at the time of his sailing the ports of Sweden were open to the introduction of American commerce; but apprehensions were entertained that the French Minister, who had arrived in Stockholm, would cause restrictions to be imposed, to prevent a free trade being long continued. By an order published soon after his arrival, all British vessels, produce and manufactures, except the article of salt, were to be entirely excluded after the 24th of April.

"It was the general belief of the best informed persons in Gottsburgh, that it was Bonaparte's intention shortly to cause a sequestration to be made of all American vessels and property in the ports on the Continent, where he had influence; and that he was only waiting the arrival of a number of vessels which were expected on the opening of the Baltic, before carrying his design into execution.

"The transportation of foreign produce between Zealand and the Continent, and likewise between Altona and Tonningen, have been stopped and seizures of prohibited articles made.

"By accounts from Russia as late as the middle of February, nothing of moment had transpired in that empire. Its tranquillity was said to be owing to the engagements of Bonaparte in the celebration of his nuptial contract; but notwithstanding many rumours had been in circulation, that the Emperor Alexander and Napoleon had become disaffected with each other, yet it was confidently stated that no war was likely to take place immediately, for though the nobles & people were much dissatisfied with their servile alliance to France, yet the finances of the country were so much exhausted, the value of its coin so depreciated, and so little confidence placed in the stability of the government, that an event of this kind was considered impossible at present.

"By the interference of our Minister at St. Petersburg many vessels detained with forged American papers have been condemned, and strict examination is now observed by him to prevent the continuance of imposition on our commercial character.

"Several captures of American vessels have been made by the Danes this season. Their ships of war have orders to bring in all vessels of suspicious character; but the privateers who were to have received renewed commissions from Government to commit further depredations on our commerce on the 15th of March, are prevented cruising for the present by the interference of the Russian Minister, claiming a right by treaty, that the sound should be kept open to all neutral ships.

"The barque Wm. Gray taken in coming down from Petersburg, was condemned solely for having joined a British convoy in going up the Baltic, and there were many other vessels waiting trial under like pretences."

#### EARTHQUAKE.

Extract of a letter from the Cape of Good Hope, dated Dec. 10, 1809.

"As you will probably have heard of the Earthquake which has taken place here I wish to let you know that I am perfectly well, having escaped injury, much alarmed. It took place on the 4th of this month; the first shock about a quarter after ten at night. We were roused up suddenly by a most violent, loud, hollow rumbling, subterraneous sound, with a considerable degree of motion over the entire house; which, from its cracking and rocking, we imagined it could no stand. The bells rung most violently; we therefore made our escape as fast as possible into the open air. This shock continued about a minute, and after a moment's calm, was succeeded by a second one, much more alarming and heavy than the first, and attended with all the same symptoms, but in a much more terrible degree, and proceeding like it from the centre of the Table Mountain, nearly due south, into the sea; the sky perfectly clear and bright with stars, and not a cloud to be seen. This shock con-

tinued about two minutes, and was most dreadful.—There were three others with in the space of half an hour from the first, all comparatively slight. The chief symptom during this most awful phenomenon, were—the dogs barking and howling most terribly; watches and clocks either stopping entirely, or else losing time; the bells in all the houses ringing violently; the earth discharging water in places hitherto dry; and the stars shooting in every direction across the sky. We have had lesser ones, either by night or day ever since, which leaves us in the most unpleasant state of suspense.

"To attempt giving an idea of the confusion and dismay of the inhabitants and every class of people, is quite out of my power. Most of them were in bed at the time, and in a moment the streets and government gardens were filled with persons of all ages, sexes, and colours, nearly naked screaming & wringing their hands, in expectation of being swallowed up every moment. They remained out the whole night, since which time they have pitched tents in the different squares and open places, where they remain during the night; nor do I think they will be induced to sleep in their houses for some time. Provisionally there were no lives lost, as no houses were actually thrown down, but many persons have been obliged to take theirs to pieces, in consequence of the injury they have sustained. The thermometer was, during the whole time, between 77 and 78."

#### DOMESTIC.

##### SIR FRANCIS BURDETT.

This gentleman has nobly distinguished himself in opposition to the corruption, abuses and tyranny of the British government as to have excited considerable attention not only in Great Britain and Ireland, but also in the United States, it is therefore presumed that any information respecting him will be acceptable to the American public. The writer had the honor and satisfaction of a personal intimacy with Sir Francis Burdett, and what he writes is of his own knowledge.

Sir Francis Burdett is now about 38 years of age. He is about 5 feet 11 inches in height. His countenance is intelligent, animated and peculiarly prepossessing. He is well made and his face rather handsome than marked by any boldness of expression or characteristic of mind. His voice is soft, sweet, well toned and in good command. It is evident that such a man is eminently qualified for a public speaker, and the manner of his address, his language and actions, are of those kinds that are certain to arrest and secure public attention.

It was in the year 1795—6, that Sir Francis Burdett made his debut as a politician; he then presided at a dinner of a very numerous and respectable meeting of the friends of Parliamentary Reform, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern. The first occasion in which he distinguished himself in Parliament was in the year 1798, by his active, persevering and unremitting efforts to ameliorate the condition of the State Prisoners, particularly those confined in Cold Bath Fields or the New Castle Prison.

Sir Francis Burdett's fortune is believed to be at this time between 30 and 40 thousand pounds sterling a year, and he is without exception, the only Englishman of large fortune who has ever been known to the writer who was in principle and in practice a zealous and disinterested advocate of the rights of the people. He never united himself with any party in the house of commons.—He considered the Tories and Whigs in no other light than as ins and outs and he always has acted independent of both.

He was intimately acquainted with many of the most eminent and active Irish politicians. He loved their persons, he honored their efforts in the cause of their country, and he revered their principles. He has ever from his debut been viewed with a jealous and watchful eye by the government of England, and it is believed that they fear him more than any individual in the united kingdoms.

His commitment to the tower is a striking evidence of their fear and their folly. They must liberate him at the close of the session, and he will come forth as the beloved champion and the oppressed advocate of the rights and liberties of the people.

The private virtues and amiable qualities of Sir Francis Burdett are as many and as estimable as commonly falls to the lot of the more respectable and worthy portion of the human race. May he live to see the emancipation and enjoy the gratitude of his country.

Phil. Dem. Press.

PHILADELPHIA, May 21.

"Experience is a wise teacher." Commerce is now as unrestrained as cupidity could covet—the ties of social and legal obligation are not now subject to violation by avarice and the disregard of morals or consequences. Speculation may now take the cup till it is drunk. When the intercourse was renewed with England, under the proclamation of the President, after Mr. Erskine's engagements were made to our government; we cautioned the merchants from making over shipments to that country, lest the fall in

price of our produce there should disappoint their hopes—and produce loss in stead of profit.

That great loss must take place was certain, from the market being glutted, and the almost entire impossibility of making sales, until it was known that the British minister would not ratify the engagements of Mr. Erskine, and a moral certainty of a renewal of the non-intercourse—which did take place.

Yet with this example fresh in the memory of every merchant, we find immense shipments have been made since, and others are daily making; so that it is probable more produce will arrive in England, within the course of one fortnight, than in times of regular commerce had been accustomed to arrive in the course of a year.

Can any merchant avoid anticipating the consequences—must not experience suggest to every man that immense loss must be the consequence—that bills will be returned with protest, and damages and costs of 25 per cent be added to increase misfortune. More ill is to be apprehended from this mania of shipping than many people are aware of. The loss on shipments to England in the course of the current year, required to be guarded against in time; inconsiderate speculation will ruin many; it will injure the nation and deprive us of a large solid capital that might have been well employed at home in pursuits less glittering but more certain.

Much mischief may yet be avoided if our reflecting merchants will pause; it is incumbent on them to do so, and consider well the chances before they send their property out of their reach; the probability is now, that cotton will fall to 1s. 9p. per lb. deduct duty, freight, commission, storage, drayage, weighing, &c. &c. and calculate what will remain; try your calculation on tobacco or any other article—the prospect will not be more flattering.

#### BALTIMORE, May 16.

Three privateers called French out in fact pirates have been seized at N. Orleans—they are called the Duc de Montebello, L'Intrepide & La Pétite Chienne. The Captain of the first is Besson, Brou, and owner—the captain of the second is Bragman, the latter is a la Case. If we are to believe the New Orleans papers, the seizure of these vessels by government has added a scene of villainy under color of French flag, which, unless the commissions from the French government authorizing their conduct be exhibited, must make them candidates for the Hempen Neck cloth.

Goods, said to be worth 10,000 dollars landed clandestinely at Charleston S. C. from an armed vessel, called French, have been seized at Charleston by the Collector of that port.

#### WASHINGTON CITY, May 16.

Having received information that several vessels had been fitted & armed within the waters of the United States, with intent to cruise against the subjects of a foreign prince with whom the U. S. are at peace, government has issued instructions to institute prosecutions against all persons whatever who may have been or shall hereafter be concerned in the fitting out and arming of any such vessel or in the augmenting of the force of any such vessel.

Nat. Intel.

#### NEW YORK ELECTION.

The following gentlemen are elected Representatives of the state of N. York in the twelfth Congress:

Ebenezer Sage,  
\*Samuel L. Mitchell,  
\*Wm. Paulding,  
\*Pierre Van Cortlandt, junr.  
\*James Emmott,  
\*Thomas B. Cook,  
\*Asa Fitch,  
\*Robert L. Livingston,  
\*Harmanus Bleeker,  
\*Thomas Sammons,  
\*Silas Snow,  
\*Thomas R. Gold,  
\*Arunah Metcalf,  
\*Uri Tracy,  
\*Daniel Avery,  
\*Peter B. Porter,  
\*J. Thompson, (not certain.)

Those marked (\*) are new members; those in Italic are federalists.

From the above statement it will be seen that there is a republican gain of six since the last election.

1809.	1810.
Republican 9	Republican 12
Federal 8	Federal 5

The returns for the assembly as far as heard from (three counties yet deficient) give a republican majority of thirty-one.

Brig. Gen. Hampton, who relieved Gen. Wilkinson in the command of the army on the Mississippi and its waters has been severely indisposed. His complaint was the contagious dysentery which has so fatally and effectually vanquished the new array; on becoming convalescent he dismissed his suite, and accompanied by his black servants, returned to his seat near Charleston. The command has devolved on Col. Cushing, of the 2nd regiment of infantry. Alex's paper.